

Appendix D: Issues and Priorities

Appendix D

1. Vision for the Future

On May 19, 2001 a community visioning workshop took place at the Moody Park recreation building to establish objectives for the Northside Village Revitalization Plan. Approximately 70 people attended, representing different areas of the Northside Village community. Input from the community covered a wide range of issues related to land use, circulation, housing, public services, and other topics. The tables on the following pages summarize the comments received from the community as bulleted points under the column "Community Input". These comments have been grouped under ten planning categories, ranging from land use (Category A) to environmental issues (Category J). A heading above each group of bulleted comments also summarizes the general concept behind that specific group of comments. The second column, "Objectives," translates the community input into planning objectives. The last column, "Opportunity/Constraints," lays out some facts about the community that either support or hinder the potential attainment of the objective.

As is evident from the tables, the range of issues identified by the community is very wide. Many of the issues, such as those under category D, "Public Services", are already addressed by existing city ordinances, regulations, and programs. Other issues could be grouped and addressed simultaneously with specific projects of the Revitalization Plan.

2. Priorities

To narrow the number of issues and translate them into specific interventions that the Plan could propose, a list of planning "concepts" was derived from the issues by the consultants. These were then presented to the Northside Village Steering Committee on June 27, 2001 (see Table 2). These concepts were meant to be general statements of strategies, initiatives, or projects that could be proposed as part of the Plan. This list is purposely brief in order to help focus the Plan on a focused set of strategic interventions of community revitalization. The relationships of the concepts to the community issues expressed in the workshop were identified for each concept with the alpha designations for the ten planning related categories .

Table 2 presents the final list of (fifteen) concepts refined and ranked by the Steering Committee. These priorities are the base for the strategies presented in the plan, translating the input from the community visioning workshop into a policy document for the Northside Village.

Table 1: Community Input and Objectives

Community Input Category A: Land Use	Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints
Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed-use character <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wealth of accessible local services ▪ Mom & pop businesses ▪ Good restaurants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve and promote compatible mix of uses/establishment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermixed industrial + commercial • Incompatible businesses • Compatible home businesses
Issues/ Proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of certain establishments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of quality & variety in retail & services ▪ Need cinemas, copy shop, office supplies, alternative grocery stores & restaurants Incompatible land uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too many bars/cantinas/night clubs ▪ Industrial sites in residential areas ▪ Lack of deed restrictions ▪ Abandoned industrial sites ▪ Illegal businesses (especially car repair & body shops) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bring more diverse/mainstream businesses to neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sites • Big box type intrusions not desired • Area needs marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid proliferation of undesired uses/establishment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of deed restrictions • Better enforcement of ordinances needed

Appendix D

Table 1 (Cont.)

Community Input	Category B: Circulation	Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints																							
Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good access to downtown ▪ Central location in Houston Good internal accessibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walkable neighborhood 	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance access from downtown </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton does not extend into downtown; narrow Main St. underpass; toll road access </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improve and complete sidewalk network </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow ROWs; open ditches </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improve and complete sidewalk network </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow ROWs; 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Table 1 (Cont.)

Community Input	Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints
Category C: Housing		
Single-family character: □ Single-family housing stock Housing diversity and affordability: □ Diversity of housing stock □ Affordable housing stock □ Low property taxes □ Mixed-income area ASSETS	<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve single-family <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve and promote housing affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dilapidated housing; loss of structures • Low household incomes; scattered infill sites; small vacant parcels; cost of land
Dangers of gentrification: □ Threats of displacements/stress on renters Housing in bad condition/liabilities: □ Dilapidated housing stock □ Irresponsible landlords □ Public housing (Irvington Village) □ Homeless shelter NEEDS	<input type="checkbox"/> Preserve and promote housing affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low household incomes; scattered infill sites; small vacant parcels; cost of land • Low household incomes; small vacant parcels • Low household incomes • Housing Authority Budget
Need housing diversity: □ Need senior housing □ Don't want apartments or townhouses □ Want nice apartments □ Increase housing options PROPOSALS	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide more senior housing <input type="checkbox"/> Provide more quality rental housing options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small vacant parcels • Low household incomes; scattered infill sites; small vacant parcels; cost of land • Increase homeownership levels

Appendix D

Table 1 (Cont.)

Community Input	Category D: Public Services	Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints
Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police service has improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Police has "cleaned" area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficient police service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not enough police surveillance ■ Streets feel insecure ■ Harassment of female pedestrians ■ Crack houses ■ Prostitution ■ Vandalism & graffiti ■ Noise: car boom boxes ■ Noise: bars/cantinas/night clubs ■ Slow 911 response times Deficient clean-up services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Abandoned vehicles & dumped tires ■ Deficient trash pick-up system ■ Trashed vacant lots ■ Abandoned buildings ■ Trash in bayous ■ Illegal dumping Deficient code enforcement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Unlicensed businesses ■ Animals on the loose Lack of mosquito control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lack of mosquito control Noise sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Noise: rail yards ■ Noise: trains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improve police presence, activity, and efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Improve police presence, activity, and efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Improve trash pick-up services <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate blight <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate illegal dumping <input type="checkbox"/> Control illegal businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Pet control <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito control <input type="checkbox"/> Control noise from yards and rail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New presence on corridors • Weed and Seed program • Existing City ordinances • County programs – in particular mosquito control

Table 1 (Cont.)

Community Input	Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints
Category E: Community Facilities		
Assets Good community facilities: □ Strong & active churches □ Good/new schools □ Casa de Amigos □ New library □ Moody Park □ Bayous	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use schools as centers of community; build on existing assets
Issues/ Lack of family/youth venues & activities: □ Need youth programs/venues □ Need arts activities □ Need family-oriented venues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide family-oriented facilities and activities
Specific facilities lacking: □ Need multi-purpose service center □ Need more day cares □ Need Post Office □ Need day labor center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Multi-purpose Service Center □ Daycares □ Post Office □ Day labor center
Proposals for rail yards: □ Park at rail yards □ Museum at rail yards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Build community facility at rail yards; park and/or museum

Appendix D

Table 1 (Cont.)

Community Input	Category F: Infrastructure	Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints
Assets			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding safe area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most of area does not flood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding of certain areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little White Oak & Hardy/Elysian area Open drainage ditches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trashed & flooded drainage ditches Street lighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of street lighting Fire hydrants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not enough fire hydrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Update flooding information for community <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent flooding <input type="checkbox"/> Install curbs & storm sewers <input type="checkbox"/> Improve street lighting <input type="checkbox"/> Install more fire hydrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of detention facilities with park areas • Long term budget impacts; prioritize; CIP issue • Long term budget impacts; prioritize; CIP issue • Long term budget impacts; prioritize; CIP issue
Issues/ Proposals			
	<h3 data-bbox="1199 1041 1305 1220">Category G: Historic Preservation</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abundance of historic resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous buildings and residential areas of potential historic value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve historic housing and commercial stock <input type="checkbox"/> Improve condition and use of historic structures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures are not utilized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structures are not utilized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dilapidated condition of housing & other buildings • Possibility of integrating with housing and economic development programs • Dilapidated condition of housing & other buildings • Possibility of integrating with housing and economic development programs

Table 1 (Cont.)

Community Input Category H: Economic Development	Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints
Assets N/A	Employment: □ Lack of jobs □ Businesses don't hire locals	• Provide more sources of jobs □ Promote hiring of residents by area businesses Bring more visitors to area: □ Bring light rail = more visitors □ Need to bring lunch crowd from Downtown □ Extend trolley system Proposals: □ Build festival commercial center on Fulton □ Build an open air market close to downtown

Table 1 (Cont.)

Community Input		Objectives	Opportunities/Constraints
Category I: Beautification/Urban Design			
Assets	Issues/ Proposals		
Trees: ▪ Mature trees	□ Preserve existing trees		
Esplanades: ▪ Need esplanade beautification	□ Provide and improve esplanades	• Narrow ROWs	
Civic monuments: ▪ Need more civic monuments	□ Build civic monuments		
Businesses: ▪ Businesses parking not maintained ▪ Visual clutter: commercial signs	□ Improve appearance of businesses and commercial corridors		
Entrance to area: ▪ Entrance signs/gateway to NN	□ Build gateway improvements		
Category J: Environmental			
Assets	Issues/ Proposals		
Flooding: ▪ Many areas do not flood	□ Update flooding information for community		
Flooding: ▪ Main St. underpass flooding ▪ Flooding: Little White Oak & Hardy/Elysian area	□ Rebuild Main St. Build detention facilities	• Integration of detention facilities with park areas	
Pollution: ▪ Industrial sites/brownfields ▪ Illegal waste dumping (car shops) ▪ Industrial contamination	□ Cleanup & redevelop brownfields □ Eliminate illegal dumping □ Eliminate industrial contamination	• Better enforcement of ordinances needed • Remediation programs	

Northside Village Economic Revitalization Plan

Table 2: Prioritized Concepts

Concepts	Relevant Community Input Categories	Final Ranking
Light Rail Through Near Northside Extension of line along main neighborhood corridor(s)	B, H	1
Business Development Program Support, expand, and attract businesses through loans, technical assistance, and marketing	H	2
Neighborhood Infrastructure Program Build and rebuild sidewalks, storm sewer system, and street lighting; traffic calming; METRO bus stop shelters; flood control	B, F, J	3
Connections to Downtown Improve and build an at-grade and widened Main St. and/or an extension of Fulton; extend downtown trolley service to Near Northside	B, H	4
Code Enforcement Improve enforcement of land use and environmental regulation of neighborhood incompatible businesses	A, D, J	5
Commercial Corridor Beautification Main St. - Fulton/Irvington - Quitman	H, I	6
“Safe Streets” Initiative Build new police station and improve police presence	D, H	7
Near Northside Market Plaza A pedestrian-oriented public space for community and commercial activity	E, H, I	8
“Clean Neighborhood” Program Cleanup of vacant lots, abandoned cars and buildings, and street trash	A, D, G, J	9
Quality Housing “Rebuild the 230” Initiative Infill and other housing programs	C, G, J	10
Parks Improve Hogg Park; linear parks along bayous; a park at the rail yards; neighborhood pocket parks on vacant parcels; detention facilities as recreational areas; revisit COH Parks Master Plan	E	11
Education Magnet schools and Headstart Programs	F	12
Multi-Service Center (including healthcare) Possible redevelopment of historic property	A, E	13

Appendix D

Table 2 (Cont.)

Concepts	Relevant Community Input Categories	Final Ranking
Internal Mobility Program Jitney / Mini-bus service for short trips within neighborhood	B	14
Job Training Center Possible redevelopment of historic property	E, G, H	15